(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Yes, Sir. The Confederation of Indian Industry (CM) in its State of the Economy of April, 2005 projects that agriculture and allied activities will see a growth of 3 per cent (medium forecast), 2.8 per cent (low forecast), and 3.2 per cent (high forecast) in 2005-06 as compared to 1 per cent during 2004-05.

(b) and (c) The delayed onset of south-west monsoon has affected sowing activities. The behaviour of monsoon was erratic in the month of June, 2005 and at all-India level the cumulative rainfall from 1st June to 29th June was 20 per cent less than the normal. However, the monsoon revived subsequently and the cumulative rainfall from 1 st June to 3rd August, 2005 was 5 per cent more than normal. The sowing operations have accelerated with steady revival of monsoon and it is expected that the area under crops will further improve in the coming weeks. At this juncture no production loss is anticipated.

Agricultural reforms

2040. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Prime Minister has shown great concern over farm sector growth;

(b) if so, whether Prime Minister projected a growth of 7 to 8 per cent for the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(c) whether PM urged to approve and implement the correctives enunciated in the Planning Commission's emphasis on agricultural reforms;

(d) to what extent PM has asked to take steps to tackle agricultural problems;

(e) to what extent the suggestions made by PM has fully been acknowledged and addressed by all Chief Ministers; and

(f) what are the concrete steps and measures, State Governments have considered to improve agricultural growth?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Mid Term Appraisal of the Tenth Five Year Plan, as agreed to by the National Development Council, has projected a 7 per cent target of economic growth for the Tenth Five Year Plan.

(c) and (d) The National Development Council (NDC) have formally agreed to form a Sub-Committee for drawing up implementable action plans in agriculture and related issues encompassing agriculture credit system, quality of extension work, problems of drylands and wastelands and investments in irrigation which have emerged as common concerns pertaining to agriculture. The NDC's Sub- Committee is expected to submit its report within six months for inclusion in the approach paper to the Eleventh Five Year Plan.

(e) and (f) The NDC with Chief Ministers as its members, expressed broad agreement with goals and policies suggested in the Mid Term Appraisals, which would serve as a blue print for further action on development matters in the Tenth Plan.

Rural godowns

2041. SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a scheme of construction of rural godown called "Gramin Bhandaran Yojana" has been started to create storage capacity in rural areas;

(b) if so, the date on which it has been launched and the achievements made, so far;

(c) what is the subsidy on capital cost available for such schemes; and

(d) in what manner the scheme is different from the scheme already in existence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A Central Sector Scheme titled "Construction/Renovation of Rural Godown" (Grameen Bhandaran